REMARKS

I. Rejection under 35 USC §102 (a)

Claim 9 has been rejected as being anticipated under 35 USC §102(a) by Yoneda WO 99/62482. Claims 35 and 39, which depend ultimately on claim 9, have been objected to as depending on a rejected base claim, but are indicated as allowable if rewritten as independent claims incorporating the subject matter of the base claim.

Although Applicants believe that claim 9 is patentable over the Yoneda reference, in order to advance the prosecution of the remaining claims, claim 9 has been cancelled herein. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of claim 9, and all other cancelled claims, in one or more continuation applications. Claim 35 has been rewritten, as suggested, as an independent claim incorporating the substance of claim 9, and therefore is now allowable. Claim 39, which depends from claim 35, should now also be allowable, since it depends from an allowable claim.

Applicants note that the Examiner, in the present office action, has not listed claim 18 among either the pending, allowable or rejected claims. Applicants note that in the previous office action dated March 13, 2002, this claim was indicated as allowable if rewritten as independent, which was done in response to that office action. There has been no subsequent rejection nor any cancellation of that claim, so Applicants have assumed that its absence from the present office action is an oversight, and that, as previously indicated, the claim is still pending and allowable. Applicants therefore respectfully request an issuance of a Notice of Allowance with respect to claims 7, 8, 18-30, 34-37, 40-42 and 44, all the remaining claims in the application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the cancellations and amendments herein, the remaining present claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that discussion will resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Lowney, Reg.No. 31,274
Estée Lauder Companies
125 Pinelawn Road
Melville, NY 11747
(631)531-1191